UNIVERSITY OF BUCHAREST
VIRTUTE ET SAPIENTIA

Bloodaxe Books
at
"Lidia Vianu's Students Translate"

Literary Translation Masterclass
The fourth edition
13-17 mai 2019

Lidia Vianu's Students Translate
MASTERCLASS
Traducere Literară
În parteneriat cu ICR şi MNLR

Proiect finanţat de Ministerul Culturii şi Identităţii Naţionale

MINISTERUL CULTURII ŞI IDENTITĂŢII NAŢIONALE

Monday 13 May, Lidia Vianu's Students Translate, Day One

The opening of the Masterclass 2019, hosted by the Romanian Cultural Institute.

Bloodaxe is here!

All the poets will work on the students' translations from Romanian poetry.

Nadina and Eliana were there. Most of the students were there. I am very grateful indeed.

Thank you all. I had almost lost hope.

I am more than grateful for the support of so many national institutions, but I am even happier to see that MTTLC students are still interested...



Liviu Papadima—the Vice Rector who has always stood by us.

Liviu Franga—the Dean who has supported us when times were harder than one could suspect.

Octavian Roske—my former student who has become part of the story of the English Department, and who has struggled for us more than once.

Last but NOT least: Dana Berdilă, the RCI, who has accompanied me on the roller-coaster of "We will have a Masterclass, We may not manage this year, We might, We hope, We win." Thank you, Dana.

Thank you Romanian Cultural Institute, thank you—University of Bucharest, thank you—Faculty of Foreign Languages, thank you—English Department.



Thank you, Ioana Ieronim, for spending whole afternoons, years on end, with MTTLC graduates, for trusting us from the very beginning, and for being the good friend you have been since we were both students. Time passes, but true friendship goes on.



Meet IMTIAZ DHARKER!
https://www.bloodaxebooks.com/ecs/category/imtiaz-dharker
Tuesday, 14 May, 16:00h, James Joyce room, Pitar Moş.



Dina: always herself, always hardworking, and always there. Our brilliant foreign student who is becoming a Romanian very fast...

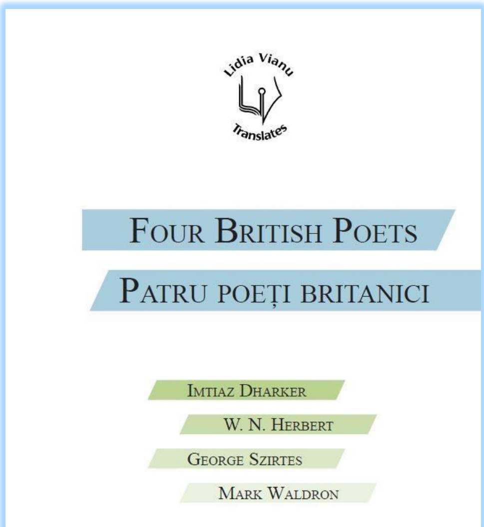


Violeta: Doctor of Medicine, a rheumatologist taking refuge from human suffering in the land of translators... Ready to translate books—actually working on one right now. Welcome aboard, Violeta. MTTLC will adopt you, and, in your case, attendance will not be a requirement, since you are already working six hours a day on the book you translate after your long hours at the hospital...



Thank you—the National Museum of Literature and Editura Muzeul Literaturii—thank you, Alina Ioan—for publishing one more book for this yearly Masterclass, and for making it so irresistibly elegant:

Four British Poets / Patru poeți britanici,
translated into Romanian by Lidia Vianu, Parallel Texts,
Editura Muzeul Literaturii, 2019.

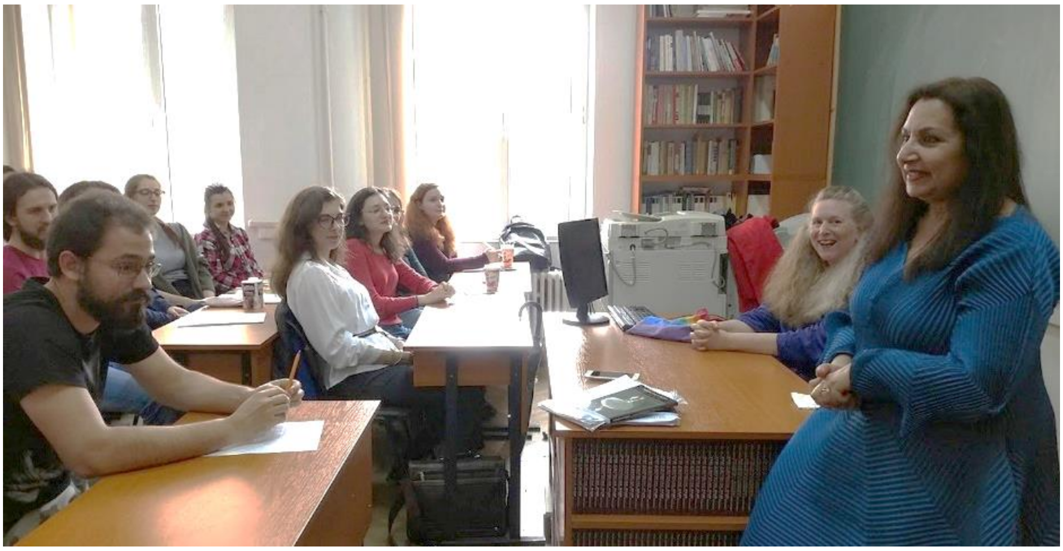


Tuesday 14 May, Lidia Vianu's Students Translate, Day Two

Poets' Lunch, with Mircea Dinescu.
Bloodaxe toast. Neil taking the photograph...



When a poet is laughing, a hundred students relax.



The magic of poetry: Imtiaz Dharker. Clear, emotional and strong. Maybe translating poetry is not all that bad..?

[question meant for second year MTTLC graduates, who
all translate Bloodaxe poets for their dissertations]



Three poets, three moods, three words: Bloodaxe. Books. Poetry.



Pamela Robertson-Pearce: the contagious [enigmatic] smile.



Thank you, Imtiaz Dharker, for making my students applaud and smile at your poems. "God's in his Heaven / All's right with the world!" Anyone who says reading is dead should look at this photograph before they speak.



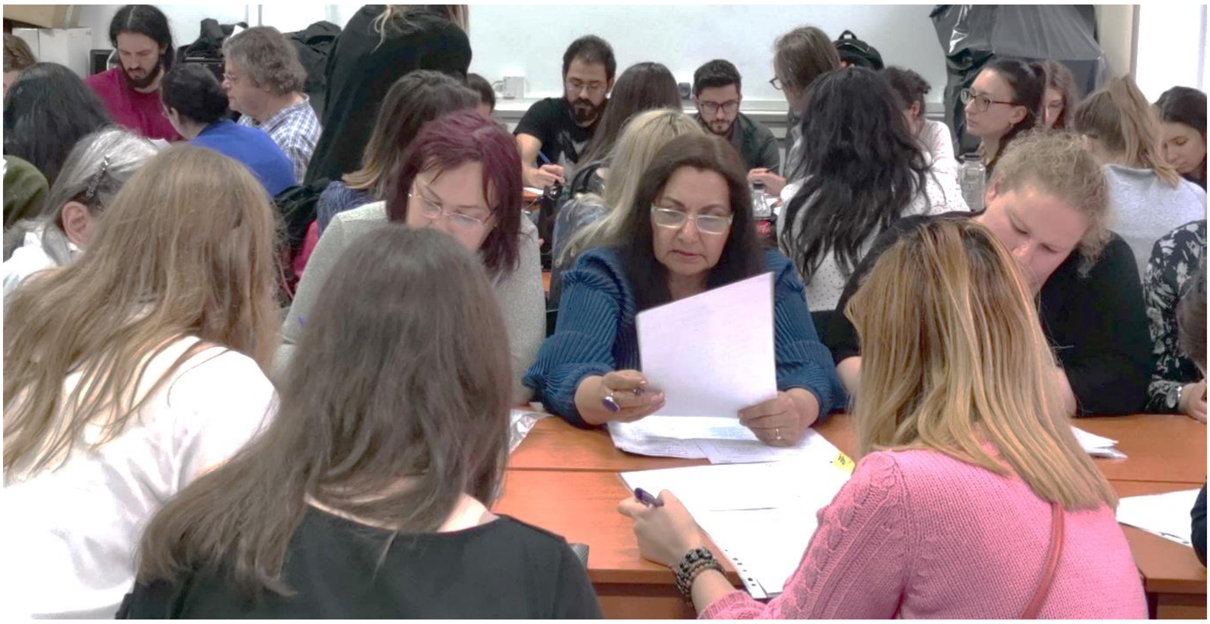
Worst expectations dispelled: room James Joyce did not have enough chairs for all the students who came to work with the Bloodaxe team. Wonderful feeling.



I wish I had anticipated that so many students would come... The British poets are delighted: our students are brilliant. I am just happy they are present. I am also happy that poetry has found them, at long last. Thank you, Neil!



Imtiaz at work. Delicacy and humour. The poet's hand is firm. Time passes quickly. Too quickly..? I can't help wondering if the students feel the same, or if they are just waiting patiently for the end of the day.



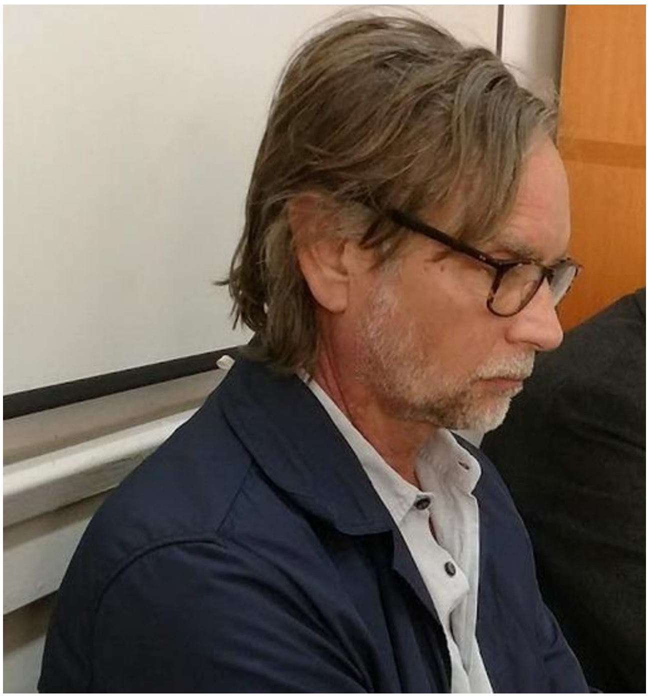
OANA ENĂCHESCU—the most enthusiastic and imaginative editor of the national radio station.



Tomorrow, 15 May, Room James Joyce, Pitar Moş, 16:00h, meet MARK WALDRON, https://www.bloodaxebooks.com/ecs/category/mark-waldron .

No latecomers, please: the door will be locked. We do not want to dispel the fascination of his reading.

Be prepared to be surprised. Mark's middle name is Surprise.



Wednesday 15 May, Lidia Vianu's Students Translate, Day Three

Mark was his usual surprising self.

After the reading, two students stopped me: "This was COOL! We really liked it!.." The exact seven words that could make me happy after the torture of administration, obstacles and other organizing things that I will never be able to do right.

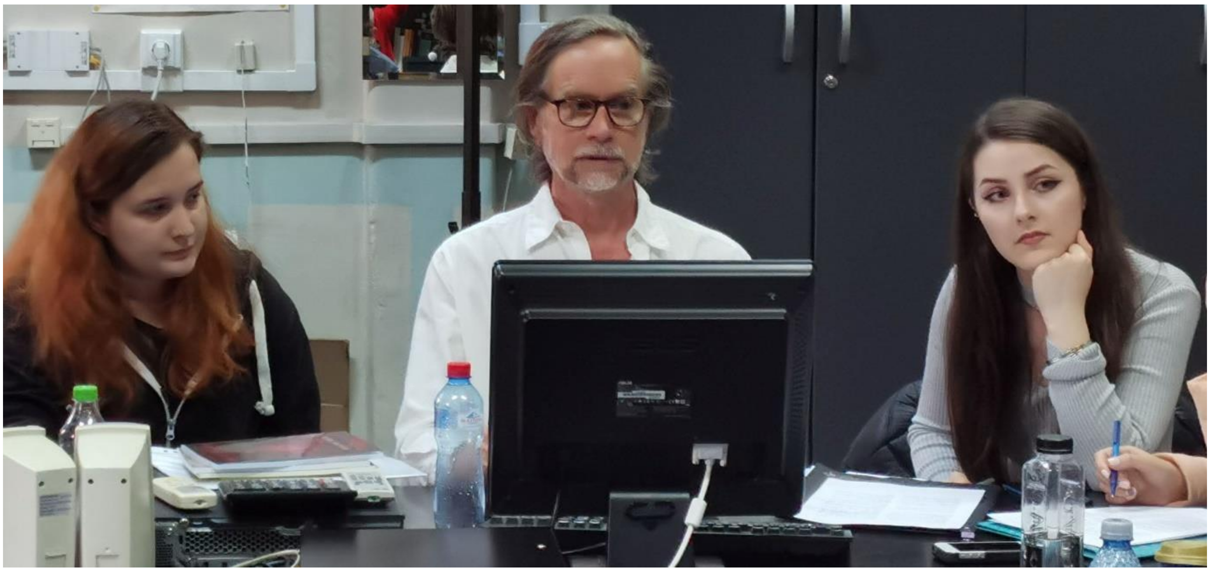




Bloodaxe Books
15 May at 22:37 ·

Mark Waldron livens up the the student translators class at Lidia Vianu's Bloodaxe-Romanian translation project at the University of Bucharest today.

Mark worked hard today. So did all the students.
Translating poetry. Of all the things—
No complaints so far.



The Charmer and the Teacher. Both doing what they know best: spending their lives at the University. Come to think of it, this is what I myself have done best in this life.





Bloodaxe Books
16 May at 22:11 ·

Bloodaxe poet Mark Waldron being interviewed by Ioana from Romanian Radio about working with Lidia Vianu's masterclass translation students at the University of Bucharest. (With George Szirtes and Bill Herbert in the background)

"It would have been helpful to have here the Romanian poets whom we are translating," an English poet remarked.

If they are not here—well—it is not for lack of trying.

At least my students have been smart enough to allow the Bloodaxe - Romanian mood into their lives.



GEORGE SZIRTES has arrived!

Meet him tomorrow, Thursday, 16 May, James Joyce room, 16:00h.

https://www.bloodaxebooks.com/ecs/category/george-szirtes



Thursday 16 May, Lidia Vianu's Students Translate, Day Four

George Szirtes reading... A winner of T.S. Eliot Prize!



How long has it been since our students used to feel this way about poetry? This must be the Bloodaxe - Romanian look, I suppose.



The British Council supports us once again. Thank you, Nigel Bellingham.



George's team at work.



Hard Times: Neil doesn't like to compromise when it comes to the right word. Either you find it, or you can never translate a poem.





Imtiaz and Mark are leaving tomorrow at noon...



Bloodaxe dinner at Casa Universitarilor.

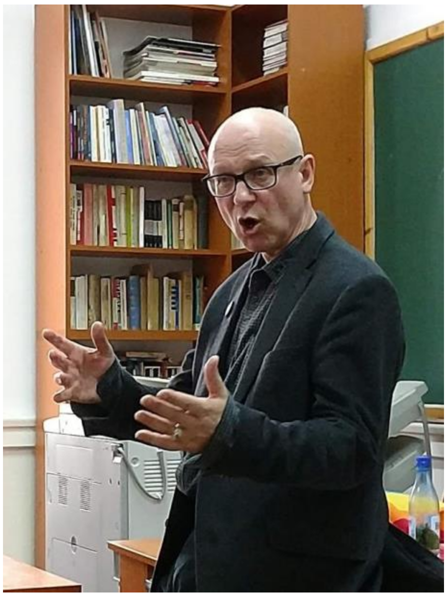
The rise and fall of the Academia. This used to be a fairy-land: "When I grow up, and can work at the Department, and have lunch at Casa Universitarilor..."

Cinquante ans après—both me and the restaurant have changed. To say the least of it.



Friday 17 May, Lidia Vianu's Students Translate, the last day of the Masterclass

Last poetry reading, fifth day of this year's Masterclass: BILL HERBERT. Irresistibly intelligent and chameleonic.



Bill again: "I want you!"
Everybody was in awe of his wit.



Applauding Bill time and again.



Elena and Ioana. Plus me behind the camera, relieved that the paper work is done.

Would I do this all over again, masterclass and paperwork and administration and so many things I am no good at?

Well—there is a cure for those who tend to give up: when they do, they should take a spoonful of Bloodaxe.

Look at the two in this photo: they have just done that.



The National Television visits the Masterclass.
Have they ever been to Pitar Moş before? I wonder.
Thank you, Cristina Ispas.



Nice... A soul in a flower.



Neil, Bill, and George... NEIL ASTELY, about the beginnings of Bloodaxe and its present success.



FLOWERS FOR BLOODAXE!



Nigel Bellingham, Director of the British Council, is with us again.



Three Men in a Masterclass. With flowers—for poetry.



Vive la Poésie!
And its translation—



Lidia Vianu
17 May at 22:28

Flowers for Bloodaxe.
End of the Masterclass.
Fifth day, 17 May 2019.



Neil Astley is with Pamela Robertson-Pearce.
17 May at 22:16

A wonderful Romanian thank you from Lidia Vianu's translation masterclass.

Bloodaxe promising to visit us again.



Our photographer, Alexandra Costache



Bloodaxe elegance.
What Poetry Hides.
[That which we call a rose, by any other name would smell as sweet.]
This time round, the secret of Poetry is BLOODAXE.



The message of Bloodaxe to Romania: behind the stage of translation, and at the root of it,

—Yet when we came back, late, from the Hyacinth garden,
Your arms full, and your hair wet, I could not
Speak, and my eyes failed, I was neither
Living nor dead, and I knew nothing,
Looking into the heart of light, the silence.



A SPOONFUL OF BLOODAXE
helps translation of poetry go down
in the most delightful way
for Romanian graduate students of MTTLC.

[...In every job that must be done
There is an element of fun.]



The Masterclass is over.
Bloodaxe has agreed to come again next year, if the students want this.

Thank you,
Dana Berdilă, The Romanian Cultural Institute
Alina Ioan, the National Museum of Romanian Literature
Ioan Matei, The Ministry of Culture
Nigel Bellingham, The British Council
Liviu Papadima, The University of Bucharest
Liviu Franga, The Faculty of Foreign Languages
Octavian Roske, The English Department
Ioana Ieronim, The Romanian Writers' Union
Mircea Dinescu.

Thank you, Bloodaxe,
Neil Astley, https://www.bloodaxebooks.com/
Pamela Robertson-Pearce, https://www.facebook.com/pamela.robertsonpearce
Imtiaz Dharker, https://www.facebook.com/imtiaz.dharker
George Szirtes, https://www.facebook.com/Nussbach3rM
Mark Waldron, https://www.bloodaxebooks.com/ecs/category/mark-waldron
Bill Herbert, https://www.facebook.com/w.n.herbert .

Thank you,
Jim, Daria, Nadina and Eliana—for being there with me.

Thank you,
Oana Boca Stănescu, Bogdan Radu Stănescu.

Thank you,
Cristina Botîlcă, Alexandra Ghencea, Gabriela Cojocaru, Silvia Petrescu, Laura Florea, Alexandra Costache [graduate students].

Thank you,
Cristina Lascu, Romanian National Television
Oana Enăchescu, Romanian National Radio Station
Razvan Penescu, LiterNet.

Last but not at all least, I must thank my graduate students, who filled the room and who understood that "Lidia Vianu's Students Translate" was mainly about them.



Lidia Vianu's Students Translate
MASTERCLASS
Traducere Literară
În parteneriat cu ICR şi MNLR

UNIVERSITY OF BUCHAREST
VIRTUTE ET SAPIENTIA

MTTLC
Masteratul pentru Traducerea Textului Literar Contemporan

Contemporary Literature Press
http://editura.mttlc.ro

The University of Bucharest
Room James Joyce, Faculty of Foreign Languages, English Department
13-17 May 2019

BLOODAXE BOOKS

Bloodaxe Books
35 mins ·

https://www.bloodaxebooks.com/news?articleid=956 Bloodaxe poets have been taking part in an innovative translation project in Bucharest, Lidia Vianu's Students Translate. Four poets, Imtiaz Dharker, Bill Herbert, George Szirtes and Mark Waldron, together with Bloodaxe editor Neil Astley and translator Pamela Robertson-Pearce, took part in a week of readings, discussions and translation workshops at the University of Bucharest during May. The project was led by Professor Lidia Vianu, who has translated the work of many leading poets into Romanian, including books by Marin Sorescu and Mircea Dinescu for Bloodaxe, and who published an anthology of the work of the four visiting Bloodaxe poets to tie in with the visit. In addition, 40 of the students have been working with 40 other Bloodaxe poets on translations of their poetry into Romanian. For the full story click on the link above.



Pamela Robertson-Pearce It was an intense, stimulating and inspiring week and a resounding success thanks to all the hard work of Lidia Vianu, the students and the poets!

Bloodaxe poets work with Romanian translators in Bucharest

https://www.bloodaxebooks.com/news?articleid=956&fbclid=IwAR3n_zglOsFRFSCsyDu3bEFjP2Y5Wk8R4XYFIhvmOiWz8b_2QDp8rO6ayz0

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Lidia Vianu's graduate students – many of them hoping to become future professional translators – had already drafted translations of several Romanian poets selected for the project, and the Bloodaxe team worked with groups of students each day on batches of poems, helping them to bring their translations into more fluent English, so that they read much more effectively as poems in English, and showing the need for Romanians to work with English speakers on poetry translations.

In addition, 40 of the students have been working with 40 other Bloodaxe poets on translations of their poetry into Romanian. Each student has been translating a selection of poems by their chosen poet as well as interviewing the poet by email or Skype and writing an essay on their work. This then forms their dissertation for their master's degree.

Translations from the project will be published by Contemporary Literature Press, the online publishing house of the University of Bucharest.

We wish to thank Lidia Vianu and her hard-working students for this brilliant week and for their continuing involvement in the project. The launch was hosted by the Romanian Cultural Institute, and covered then and during the week by Romanian television and radio networks. In addition, the celebrated poet and TV chef Mircea Dinescu hosted an authentic Romanian lunch for the poets at his restaurant Lacrimi şi

Sfinți with fresh produce and goat meat from his farm, wine from his vineyard and carp from the Danube.

Many thanks to:

Organisers: Lidia Vianu, University of Bucharest, Romanian Cultural Institute, National Museum of Romanian Literature.

Partners: Ministry of Culture and National Identity, British Council, Romanian Literature Museum Publishing House, Contemporary Literature Press Publishing House, MTTLC, Headsome Communication, Romanian Writers' Union, Bloodaxe Books

Media partners: Radio Romania Cultural (Oana Enăchescu, Confluence), TVR, Literary Romania, LiterNet, Book Agency.

[06 June 2019]